

## 2016-2017 BUDGET QUESTION

### *Response to Request for Information*

---

**DEPARTMENT:** Parks and Recreation

**REQUEST NO.:** 97

**REQUESTED BY:** Alter

**DATE REQUESTED:** 8/16/17

**DATE POSTED:** 8/18/17

**REQUEST:** Please provide information on how the \$350,000 for additional temporary aquatics staff to meet legal requirements related to pool access points, including the number of employees and the expected number of work hours that this funding increase will pay for. Please explain whether additional money will be needed to cover the cost to meet this requirement, or if the \$350,000 will cover the total costs of meeting this requirement. Please provide additional information on exactly what those legal requirements are and how peer cities meet those requirements.

---

**RESPONSE:** Approximately 24,581 staff hours will be required to fully comply with an updated interpretation of the Texas Department of Health Standards code requiring the direct and continuous supervision of all doors, gates and windows which are unlocked during the operation of a Class A or B swimming pool. The staff hours are determined by maintaining the same pool operations schedule as used during the 2017 swim season. Based upon the staff hours required, it is anticipated that approximately 175 new staff members will be required.

Hours of Operation – (All Facilities)											
Neighborhood Pools and Non-Charging hours of operation at Municipal Pools including Barton Springs											
Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
371	1,385	1,401	1,425	1,326	870	357	382	5,753	7,222	3,739	350
Total Hours:										24,581	

It is expected that the \$349,683 will cover the total expenses to meet this regulatory requirement pending no modifications to the pools' operational schedules for the 2018 swim season.

In the fall of 2016 the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department was notified of an updated interpretation to an existing code in the Texas Department of Health Standards for Swimming Pools and Spas. The code found in Section 265.200 Pool Yard and Spa Yard Enclosures for Post - 10/01/99 and Pre - 10/01/99 Class A and B Pools and Spas indicates in section (a)(3)(D) that the enclosure, including doors and gates, shall have all doors, gates, and windows in the enclosure directly and continuously supervised by staff at the pool during hours of operation, or locked to prevent unauthorized entry. The Parks and Recreation Department initiated a review of the code and updated interpretation and were informed that the legal analysis concurred with the updated health department interpretation.

## **2016-2017 BUDGET QUESTION**

### ***Response to Request for Information***

---

Based upon the updated interpretation, the Parks and Recreation Department will need to provide a dedicated staff person whose primary job is to supervise and monitor the unlocked gates/doors at all times that a pool is in operation. The staff person will assist with other small tasks such light cleaning in areas where the gate remains visible and similar tasks which are not inconsistent with supervising the gate.

Peer cities such as San Marcos, Georgetown, Dallas, and El Paso charge an admission fee or have membership fees for entry into their aquatic facilities and meet the code requirement by having a staff member present to accept payment or verify membership.